

Meeting Start time:

8: 00 pm

Attendees:

Denise Soppas (chair)

Charlie Neiss

Chris Baglieri

Kim Mitchell

Alice Logie

Mark Williams (9:10)

Agenda

- Chalice
- Brief Check-in
- Quick Review of Our short term Goals (Denise)
- Report back from last meeting
 - 8th Principle Learning Committee (Denise)
 - Social Justice Matters – Meeting Dec 16 (Denise/Sylvia)
 - Worship Services
 - Jan Service (Chris\Kim)
 - 8th principle minute topics and volunteers
 - Feb Service?
 - 8th First U Principle Resolution (Charlie)
- Follow-up/Next Steps

Chalice lighting

Charlie

Check In

By unanimous consent the check in was tabled

Report Back

- 8th Principle Learning Committee (Denise)

- Report has been circulated
- Social Justice Matters – Meeting Dec 16 (Denise/Sylvia)
 - Social Justice matters report circulated
 - SJM has committees on Local Policing, MLK Day of Service, Juneteenth Celebration, Education programs, TRHT (Truth Racial Healing and Transformation)
- Worship Services
 - 8th principle minute topics and volunteers
 - Charlie and Denise will continue to author
 - Would be better if more voices were heard
 - Alice will read one
 - Chris will drum up other volunteers
 - Jan Service (Chris\Kim)
 - MLK Service
 - Feb Service
 - Chris considering Ware lecture on dismantling racism as a foundation - <https://www.uua.org/justice/dismantle-white-supremacy> ?
- 8th First U Principle Resolution (Charlie)
 - The draft resolution was reviewed and revised (see appendix)

Actions

- Kim and Chris will attend worship committee meeting in preparation for Jan 17 service
- Denise will submit draft resolution to board in advance of Jan 10 meeting
- Charlie and Denise to author 8th principle minutes
- Chris and Denise will volunteer people to read 8th principle minutes
- Next meeting: Monday, February 1st, 8:00 pm

Meeting End time:

9: 20 pm

Appendix A: Draft Resolution, as modified during the meeting:

WHEREAS our seven Unitarian Universalist principles uphold the inherent worth and dignity of all people, demand justice, equity and compassion, foster acceptance of one another, seek justice for all, and require respect for the interdependent web of all existence; AND

WHEREAS pervasive racism, so deeply embedded in our culture that it is almost invisible, obstructs us from living into these principles; AND

WHEREAS racism and its effects, including the deep divisions caused by inequitable and unjust distribution of power and resources, are embedded in all social institutions as well as in ourselves and will not be eradicated without deliberate engagement in analysis and action and undertaking personal and institutional commitments to end racism; AND

WHEREAS the members of the First Unitarian Society - New Jersey have long been engaged in anti-racism work as individuals and as members of this Society, including continuing education, activism, ministry, and financial resources, taking on the additional work of intentionally deconstructing institutional racism has broad support among the members;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the members of the First Unitarian Society - New Jersey, denounce racism in all forms, both personal and institutional, AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we adopt as an 8th Principle; "Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions," AND

~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we shall include the construction of an anti-racist institution supporting a diverse, multicultural, beloved community in our Vision for our Society, AND~~

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we shall include "accountable deconstruction of institutional racism in our congregation and the fostering of this work in our communities and in the broader society" in the Mission of our congregation, AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we shall intentionally identify and deconstruct practices and systems that perpetuate racism in our institution, and replace them with accountable and actively anti-racist constructs in all of our programs and ministries, including goals for the Board and congregational leadership, AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, as a Society, will provide the individual members of our congregation with resources to foster their own journey towards spiritual wholeness through identifying and addressing their own connection to white supremacy and personal and institutional racism, and to empower each other to hold one another accountable, AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we will COVENANT to work as individuals and as members of this congregation to identify and work to deconstruct institutional racism within First Unitarian New Jersey, in the local institutions in our communities, and in the broader society, as well as our own individual racism.

